

MERCATOR:

O R,

Commerce Retrieved,

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British Trade, &c.*

From Tuesday, April 6. to Thursday, April 8. 1714.

The Opposers of the Treaty at first suggested that our Wool was to be Exported to France unwrought.

This they did, little thinking they should be detected in Print.

This was the first occasion of the Mercator.

When they were detected in this by the Mercator, they dropt it.

The Mercator proves these Men are the true Oublers, and that the Treaty of Commerce is the only effectual Course to prevent the Exportation of our Wool.

WHEN the first Debate was set on Foot in the Town against the Treaty of Commerce, the Opposers to shew their Fury rather than their Arguments, and not supposing these things would be detected in Print, spread abroad among innumerable other Falsities, this notorious one in particular, viz. that it was one of the Conditions of the Treaty of Commerce, that the Wool of England was to be Exported unwrought to the French.

The *MERCATOR* appeals to the many thousands among their own Friends, who really were made for some time to believe this, and to the many more thousands, who they again reported it to, as a firm Truth, and hoped to impose it upon their Belief also, and this he mentions now, because he knows they have eaten their Words, and drank after them, and now with the same Front deny that they said it at all; but it was too publick to be deny'd.

The Reason of this Case on their side is plain, viz. when they first spread that abominable Forgery about, they had the World before them; they dreamt not of being detected and exposed in Print, as is said above, and they made no Question but by the Artifice which they used at that time in spreading such Stories as they thought for their Turn, this among the rest should obtain among the People.

What the first Design was is very easy to explain, viz. to make the Queen's Administration appear odious, and enrage the People; nor was it to be wondred, that the People of England were at first exceedingly allarm'd to think that our Manufactures were abandon'd, our Trade laid open, the Labour of the Poor, which is their Bread, taken away from them, and our Materials for Manufacturing which Heaven had given to Great Britain and Ireland, as it were exclusively from all the World, should be given away as it may well be called to the French, no true Subject to the British Crown, or Friend to the British Interest could think of this with any Patience.

It is true, that considering wiser People could not be imposed upon in such a manifest Absurdity; they knew the thing was not rational, and that no Ministry in the World could be so Distempered in their Politicks as to offer such a Thing to their Country which they knew every Mouth in the Nation would be opened against, and therefore such Men, even before the Treaty was Printed, readily answered, whenever they met with it, that they could not believe it, that it was impossible, that the Ministry could not be so demented, so deprived of common Sense, lay themselves so open to their Enemies and the like.

But the People concern'd went on with the Cheat, and, as they say, that there was never such a Bastard born but it had a Nurse, so they found Foster-Parents for this spurious Birth, how abominable soever it was in its generating Confederates, and as a Lye told to Day, is of some Use, they say, tho' it be sure to be detected to Morrow; so the printing the Treaty was no Bank to them, for the Treaty was long, it was a whole Book, all did not see it; all that saw it had not either Time or Patience to read it; so that still the Forgery flew about, and went on for Current among the People, who they wanted to deceive, and really many of them believe it to this very Hour, and will believe it; They resolve to believe it whether it be true or no; Not reading the Treaty it self to them will hinder them, they will believe it; and e'en let them believe it.

Si populus vult decipi decipiatur,

At length summon'd by this Fraud, and of meer Necessity in order to undeceive a deluded Nation, the *MERCATOR* came out, and among other Cheats detected this of the Wool, which made the Broachers of it roar most fearfully against the *MERCATOR*, but however they had so much Shame that they never offered to say since that, that our Wool was to be Exported to France.

But now on the other Hand they are become Advocates for that very Thing which is the occasion of our Woo

Wooll being in so eager a manner at so many Hazards, and sometimes with the Expence of our Blood fetch'd away from us: And the *MERCATOR* therefore with much more Truth, and with great Advantage turns the Tables upon them, and affirms in their Teeth, that those People who oppose the present Treaty of Commerce with France are the Men who labour more than any, and that in this very Thing also, to have our Wooll unwrought Exported to France.

In explaining this, the *MERCATOR* lays down two or three Generals, which he believes the Opposers, tho' Modesty is none of their Peculiar, will not have the front to contradict, at least if they should, they will expose themselves and their Cause to the utmost Abhorrence.

1. That our Manufactures not being admitted into France, or being loaded with high Duties equal to a Prohibition, which is the same thing, is the great Means of the Improvement which the French have been able to make in the Woollen Manufacture.

This is plain from the Preambles to the several Tariffs, Edicts and Arrests published in France, particularly of 1699, 1703, and the like; where the Reason of laying high Duties on the English Manufactures is owned by the King of France to be, because otherwise their own Manufactures could not be Vended, or to that purpose, and for the Encouragement of their own People in making the said Manufactures in France; as may be seen in the Book of Tariffs, or French Book of Rates, lately Translated into English, and sold by the Book-sellers about the Exchange, to which the *MERCATOR* freely refers.

2. As, on the one Hand, not admitting our Goods is the Encouragement of the French Manufacturing; so, on the other Hand, the Increase of their Manufacturing is the reason of the Owling Trade, as we call it, and that many ways; for in this Trade, so as to be of an additional field of business, and to be of a world. Having not Wooll of their own, neither in Quality or Quantity, to make the great Bulk of Woollen Manufactures which they want for their own Home-Trade, much less for a Foreign-Trade, as these prevaricators Challenge for them: This makes them hunt, far and near, over all the Greeks and By-places they can come at, both in Britain and Ireland, to get as much of our Wooll as possible from us, without which they are not capable to go on with their Works to any perfection. This prompts them also to give a great Price for our Wooll, by which our Mercenary and Treacherous People are too easily prevailed upon to Sell their Country and their Commerce to the French, without which they could never be able to carry on the Woollen Manufactures.

And who can forbear repeating, tho' it were in every Paper, what was hinted in the last *MERCATOR*, (viz.) That some of those *Destroyers of*, and therefore *Traytors to*, their Country's Prosperity, who have been found Guilty, and are now in the Hands of Justice for Exporting our Wooll to France, the same Men who were found but a few Months before Huzzaing among the Crowd at the Elections for such Members as would Oppose the Bill of Commerce, because, as they alledged, that Bill would cause our Wooll to be carryed into France Unwrought, and the Badge of these Wretches was a Lock of Wooll in their Hats, &c.

Whereas the Truth of the Fact is, that the keeping up our Trade, and having our Manufactures kept out of France, is the only Reason of the French so eagerly seeking our Unwrought Wooll, and giving such Bribes to our People for it as makes them Accessary to their getting it away; and the Treaty of Commerce is the only true and regular Way to prevent it, as shall be shewn in its place.

Thus these Men who have so long amused us with the Wooll being carryed away into France, and have made such loud Clamours about it ; these, I say, are the only Owlers, for they are the Cause why the French have such a Demand for our Wooll.

It is true, that before the War, and even before any of the high Duties laid on our Woollen Manufactures in France; the French got some of our Wooll, and desired it, because they have little or none of their own.

This the *MERCATOR* grants, but with this just exception, which every one must allow, (viz.) That the Quantity of English Wooll carryed into France was nothing in those Days to what it has been sence ; *Ramney Marsh* was then the only place, nor was the Quantity carry'd from thence any thing considerable, but now it is an infinite, immense, incredible Quantity that is carryed away, as well from Kent, Sussex, the Isle of Wight, and the rest of the South-Coast of England, as from Lincolnshire, Norfolk, the Fens, and again in the North of England, and in Scotland, and above all in Ireland ; and if it be true, that 40000 Packs of Wooll have been landed in the Bay of Biscay in France from Ireland in the last Year, as the *MERCATOR* has been informed, it is then no wonder if the French should Encroach upon our Manufactures : Thus the Case is clear, these Men are guilty of carrying all this Wooll away, and it is in their Power alone to prevent it. If the *MERCATOR* is asked how they shall prevent it, he answers, by getting our Manufactures admitted into France on low Duties we should stop their Manufacturing ; if we stop their Manufacturing, we stop their Demand of our Wooll ; and this the Treaty alone can do, as shall appear in the farther Enquiry into this part of it, in the next *MERCATOR*.

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